

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 USIA-04 AF-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 PA-01

PRS-01 IO-03 /062 R

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9/13/73 EXT 23133

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181920

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB (SIHANOUK)

SUBJECT: ABC INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK

REF: ALGIERS 1975

FOLLOWING QUESTIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CIOFI FOR PROPOSED
SIHANOUK TV INTERVIEW:

1. MONSEIGNEUR, WHEN YOU MADE YOUR RECENT VISIT TO THE
LIBERATED ZONE OF CAMBODIA, YOU INDICATED THAT YOU MET WITH
A NUMBER OF THE LEADERS WHO WERE ONCE AGAINST YOU, BUT NOW
ACCEPTED YOU AS THE LEADER. COULD YOU IDENTIFY FOR US THE
VARIOUS GROUPS AND LEADERS WHO MAKE UP THE FUNC (FRONT UNI
NATIONAL DU CAMBODGE)?

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2. IF THESE GROUPS ACCEPT YOUR LEADERSHIP, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR RECENT STATEMENTS TO MISS ORIANA FALLACI AND SYLVANA FOA (UPI) THAT THEY WILL "SPIT ME OUT LIKE A CHERRY PIT?"

3. MR. IENG SARY (YENG SAREE), THE FUNC REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INTERIOR WHO ACCOMPANIES YOU EVERYWHERE, TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL THAT THE INSURGENTS "TRUST" YOU FOR THE MOMENT, BUT THAT CAMBODIA AFTER VICTORY WOULD BECOME A "PEOPLES REPUBLIC AND THAT THE ONLY KING WILL BE THE PEOPLE." HOW DOES THAT SQUARE WITH YOUR ASSERTION THAT CAMBODIA WILL REMAIN A MONARCHY WITH YOU AS TITULAR HEAD BUT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE THE REAL POWER?

4. IF CAMBODIA IS, AS YOU ONCE SAID, "MARCHING TOWARDS COMMUNISM" AND YOU ARE HELPING THAT CAUSE, HOW CAN YOU AS A MAJOR CAMBODIAN PATRIOT AND SYMBOL OF ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE ACCEPT COMMUNISM WHICH IS ANTITHETICAL TO ALL CAMBODIAN FOLKWAYS AND MORES?

5. YOU HAVE SAID THAT, WHILE IN THE SO-CALLED LIBERATED ZONE OF CAMBODIA, YOU SAW THE RICE AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DOUBLE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL. IF THAT IS SO, WHY ARE THE KHMER COMMUNIST TROOPS FIGHTING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOR RICE?

6. MANY PREDICTED THAT THE LON NOL REGIME WOULD COLLAPSE AFTER THE US BOMBING HALT ON AUGUST 15. WHY DIDN'T YOUR FORCES ATTACK PHNOM PENH THEN AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT?

7. YOU HAVE CONTINUOUSLY REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR IN CAMBODIA WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF MARSHAL LON NOL HAS SAID IT WILL TALK TO ANYONE IN THE OPPOSITION WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HOW CAN YOU, AS A MAN WHO LOVES THE PEACEFUL KHMER PEOPLE, SIT BACK AND REFUSE TO STOP THE KILLING?

8. HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO COMPOSE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE KHMER ROUGE AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THAT CAUSED THE RE-

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CENT FIGHTING IN PURSAT BETWEEN THESE TWO FORCES? RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE181920
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFANTIPPAS:DTM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS STEARNS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730937/aaaabarj.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: ALGIERS 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABC INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK
TAGS: PFOR, CB, (SIHANOUK)
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005